

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Roger J. Cirella and I have been commuting by rail throughout Connecticut since I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1991. I have commuted to Stamford, New York City, Hartford, and currently Norwalk, CT during that time. I was a member of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council from 2008 to 2013. I have resided in Ansonia, CT for the last fourteen (14) years with my wife and two (2) children. Commuting by car is no longer viable in Connecticut. Look at the traffic reports in the morning. Commuting by Metro-north works and I can say you are more than likely to reach your destination on time and safely than by car. Commuting on the Waterbury Line works but with two and half (2.5) hours between service it makes for a long, frustrating day.

I am happy that the Governor has included improvements to rail in the long term investments to transportation. I strongly believe that if more service is added on the Waterbury Line, more folks will utilize the service. Unfortunately, the Naugatuck Valley has become a bedroom community. The factories are gone and those jobs have gone overseas and are not coming back. Some of the space where the factories employed hundreds of people have become apartments. Those apartments do not employ people. The jobs are in lower Fairfield County. How are we going to get there safely, quickly, efficiently, and then return home at a decent hour? Please expand service on the Waterbury Line.

Best Regards,

Roger